



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

MICHELLE H. SEAGULL | COMMISSIONER

Testimony of Michelle Seagull Commissioner of Consumer Protection Committee on Children Public Hearing, February 22, 2022

HOUSE BILL 5155 “AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF CANNABIS, CANNABIS PRODUCTS AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS”

Senator Anwar, Representative Linehan, Senator Kelly, Representative Dauphinais and Honorable Members of the Committee on Children. I am Michelle Seagull, Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding HB 5155, An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Cannabis, Cannabis Products and Prescription Drugs.

This bill would require DCP to develop documents regarding the safe storage and disposal of prescription drugs, cannabis and cannabis products by consumers, to make this information available on our website and send it electronically to pharmacies, cannabis retailers and hybrid retailers by December 15th of this year. The proposal would also require pharmacists to include the information developed by DCP regarding the safe storage and disposal of prescription drugs with each prescription dispensed, and for DCP to add provisions in the regulations for the Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis (RERACA) that require retailers and hybrid retailers, at the time of purchase, to provide consumers with the documents created by DCP regarding the safe storage and disposal of cannabis and cannabis products.

DCP appreciates the intent of this proposed legislation. In fact, for several years now, there has been a page on our website that provides consumers with instructions about how to safely dispose of unused prescription drugs, <https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Prescription-Monitoring-Program/Proper-Disposal-of-Prescription-Drugs>. Providing guidance to consumers about how to store prescription drugs, cannabis and

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 901 Hartford, CT 06103 | (860) 713-6100

www.ct.gov/DCP |  facebook.com/ctdcp |  [@ctdcp](https://twitter.com/ctdcp)

cannabis products to ensure that children don't have access to these products and adding additional information about how to safely dispose of cannabis and cannabis products, is something that we can implement within available resources.

DCP will, however, need additional resources to enforce the provisions that mandate retailers, hybrid retailers and pharmacists provide consumers with this information when dispensing or selling these products. There are close to 700 retail pharmacies licensed in Connecticut and over 1,000 licensed non-resident pharmacies, and it has been projected that there will be well over 100 retail and hybrid retail entities in Connecticut. Enforcing this requirement will be challenging as it will be difficult to prove when a pharmacist, retailer, or hybrid retailer fails to provide the documentation on the roughly 43 million prescriptions filled annually in the state, to the over 53,000 medical marijuana patients, and to the large number of anticipated annual sales of recreational cannabis. The current draft also does not include other practitioners that dispense medication such as physicians veterinarians, and micro cultivators. Additionally, since there is already such a significant amount of information required on printed materials that are included with prescriptions, this new information, will likely be lost with the other lengthy required disclosures.

As an alternative, requiring pharmacies, retailers and hybrid retailers to post signs that direct consumers to DCP's website for guidance about how to store these products so that children cannot access them, and how to safely dispose of unused products, is something that can be implemented without the need for additional staff.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this feedback about this important proposal and would be happy to work with the proponents moving forward. If there are any questions, please contact our Legislative Director, Leslie O'Brien.